classes attending the High School classes was only 511, in the current year it is very nearly 1,000; in other words, there has been nearly 100 per cent increase in the course of three years. Similar concessions on a liberal scale are also given in order to enable pupils from these communities to qualify themselves for University degrees. Special attention is being paid towards the promotion of Industrial education of these children. Special stipends are being awarded to students undergoing studies in the Government Trade School and the Government Industrial School at Trichur. In addition to all these, special feeding charges are given to over 175 depressed class pupils studying in the various rural Government Industrial Schools of the State. Stipends are also given for pupils undergoing training in the Tramway Workshop at Chalakkudi so that students undergoing this training may be equipped with adequate means of livelihood. Provision of house-sites and the establishment of colonies and settlements for the depressed classes is another important line along which Government attempt to ameliorate the condition of these people. Since the starting of the department, nearly 1,700 house-sites have been provided, a greater part of it by free assignment of poramboke lands. In addition to these provisions for house sites there are 82 colonies established throughout the State inhabited by the depressed classes. We complete the process of imparting of education to these pupils by offering them facilities in the matter of recruitment to public services through the Staff Selection Board about which I shall speak in greater detail later on.

Some Development Schemes.

18. I shall now refer briefly to a few schemes of development already undertaken or in the process of investigation. The electrification of the two important towns of the State, Ernakulam and Trichur, have been completed and electricity is available in these places not merely for lighting purposes but also for industries. It is gratifying to note that the industrial load that has been secured even during the first year fills one with hope that the availability of power at a reasonable rate will encourage the growth of small industries in these areas. The Tata Oil Mills Company, Ltd., at Ernakulam are now being worked from the Ernakulam Power Station and the latest figure of load registered by this Company alone is approximately 750 horse power. Government do not propose to rest content with the supply of electricity only to urban areas. Every effort will be made to extend this amenity to the rural population also. A

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start has been already made in this direction by the scheme for the electrification of Nemmara, which is now nearing completion. The scheme will be worked as a part of the water works at Nemmara and it is expected that it will be remunerative from the outset. After the electrification of Nemmara is completed, Government propose to undertake the electrification of other important centres like Chittur, Irinjalakkuda and Kunnamkulam.

19. The Cochin Textiles, Ltd., which have started a Cotton Spinning Mill at Pudukkad have very nearly completed their work and it is expected that production will be started by the end of this year. The construction of the factory buildings at Pudukkad has supplied work for hundreds of labourers round about the area, and with the commencement of production, over 500 persons of both sexes will find a steady employment in the Mill. Government encouraged this enterprise by subscribing to preference shares to the extent of Rs. 1,50,000. Out of this Government have already sold shares of the value of Rs. 35,000 at a handsome premium.

20. Investigations are now proceeding on the possibilities of starting a Paper Mill, a factory for the manufacture of edged tools, and a concern for the packing of cashew nuts for export. Preliminary investigations regarding the possibilities of the paper industry are now nearing completion. The Government of India at our request very kindly gave us the benefit of the advice of their Paper Expert at Dehra Dun and it is expected that he would be visiting the State by the end of August. In the meantime certain private investigations also have been completed with the help of experienced Engineers. If the scheme ultimately fructifies it would not merely establish a very important industry in the State, but offer an outlet for our forest produce. It is well known that there are in the State skilled workmen who turn out a high quality of edged tools and other implements. Advantage is proposed to be taken of the availability of skilled labour for starting a concern for this manufacture. Investigations are now proceeding.

21. Apart from devoting their attention to schemes of industrial development, Government are equally anxious to undertake schemes of rural welfare. The difficulty in undertaking schemes of rural reconstruction is the paucity of men trained in this kind of work. Enthusiasm has to be supplemented by knowledge and experience. With a view to supply

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this, Government propose to start a rural reconstruction centre in the State. The Rural Reconstruction Department of the Young Men's Christian Association have established such centres in other parts of India and from my own personal experience I am convinced that they have achieved remarkable results. I am in communication with the Association and I have requested them to lend us the services of one of their experienced men who might be put in charge of a similar centre in the State. The Cocoanut Farm at Vytila which has been working at a loss and which the Retrenchment Committee have recommended to be leased out may probably prove to be an excellent place for the starting of such a reconstruction centre. A lump sum provision of Rs. 6,000 has been made in the budget for this work and I am hoping that the Rural Reconstruction Centre would be started in the course of the next Malayalam year.

Town Planning.

22. The question of undertaking schemes of town planning on a comprehensive scale has been engaging the attention of Government for some time. It is natural that Government should devote its attention in this respect in the first instance to the Capital City itself. Honourable Members can already observe that considerable improvements have been made in certain parts of Ernakulam. The canals and the basins in the town have been in a very dilapidated condition and the work of repairing them has almost been completed. The improvements to the Padiath Canal and basin and the Market basin and its canal to the east of the Broadway Bridge are estimated to cost about to Rs. 33,000. Government have agreed to contribute Rs. 8,000 for these works and the balance is met entirely by the Municipality. To enable the Municipality to find the required amount for financing these works, Government have agreed to grant a loan of Rs. 25,000 at 4 per cent interest repayable in equated annual instalments in a period of 10 years. Government appreciate the readiness of the Ernakulam Municipal Council in undertaking such schemes of town improvement. The work of opening up a new road along the foreshore which will be the main entrance to the town has already been taken on hand. An estimate for Rs. 70,000 has been sanctioned for reconstructing this road and for a new bridge on the Market Canal. The cost of this work has not been debited to the revenue accounts. It is debited to a separate account under 'Advances Recoverable'. The opening up of this new road will make available for the purpose of building construction about 5

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